

participated in policy conferences and church missions to Russia, Israel, Jordan, Cuba, and Haiti.

Above and beyond all else, Reverend Tuggle is a strong family man. He is married to Evette Beckett-Tuggle, and together they have three daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Reverend Tuggle on behalf of every man, woman and child who has been touched by Reverend Tuggle's preaching and endless and selfless community efforts.

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE SECOND
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACKS
OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that two short years ago this day, our Nation was plagued by horrendous and vicious terrorist attacks against innocent Americans in New York, Pennsylvania, and our very own Commonwealth.

September 11, 2001 was not the beginning of terrorism against the United States. Defense officials tell us that terrorism has posed a risk to our national security for decades, but too often was not considered a large enough threat to heed those warnings. September 11 awoke us to the threat of terrorism. It was forever bookmarked in our history as the day when life as Americans knew it, changed forever.

The attacks on September 11, 2001 made us feel horrified, scared and angry. But as a result of the senseless attacks, Americans found a renewed sense of patriotism. American flags began to fly not just from flagpoles, but they appeared in windows, on doors and vehicles. Just hours after the attacks, men, women and children all across the country held vigils and waved flags showing support for those who lost their lives. The terrorists took many lives and caused our Nation to grieve, but through that grief Americans rose up and refused to let those terrorists take away their spirit and love of America.

I visited the Pentagon a few days after September 11, and I still remember so vividly the smell of terror surrounding the entire building and complex. I was angry that such a brutal act of violence was committed against innocent people.

Since the tragedies, the Department of Homeland Security was established to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce U.S. vulnerability to terrorism, and most importantly, to share intelligence information among government agencies and departments.

Comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation provides new tools for law enforcement and for improved information sharing among Federal agencies to address terrorist threats. A "clearinghouse" was created to serve as the central location where all foreign- and domestically-generated terrorist threat and intelligence information is collected and reviewed. It is imperative that we harness that knowledge and use it to protect all Americans and help stop terrorist networks.

New laws are now in place to help prevent acts of bioterrorism. Enhanced controls on

deadly biological agents have been implemented, as well as protections to ensure the safety of the food we eat and the water we drink. Just last week, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced that Virginia will receive over \$31 million in Federal funding to help bolster public health preparedness, and make improvements to hospitals to handle mass-casualty incidents.

Great strides have been made in securing our country and helping to fix some of the longstanding problems that we have had with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. While there is still much left to do, we are moving closer to a system that keeps terrorists out of our country, yet provides a fair and efficient service to those who justly migrate into the United States.

We are continuing to strengthen security in our airports, and have also taken steps to keep Americans safe while flying. Commercial airline pilots are now trained and equipped with firearms in the event of a terrorist attack on-board the plane. In addition, the number of Federal air marshals has been increased by 5,000 to respond to potential terrorist threats or attacks on commercial flights.

I also introduced legislation that makes it easier to prosecute terrorists who try to use chemical weapons or other weapons of mass destruction within the United States. I am hopeful that the Judiciary Committee will take action on this important legislation soon.

We grieved with each other two years ago for the loss of our loved ones, friends, neighbors, coworkers and so many others who perished. Nothing will ever repair the losses we suffered as a nation. But today, their memories live on in our hearts and minds. As Americans, we have always had a strong willingness to stand hand-in-hand when times are tough. We must continue to show our patriotism for our great Nation, and show the world that America will not stand for terrorism.

May God bless you and your family on this solemn day.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM
SENIOR CENTER AT WOODBRIDGE ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the Prince William Senior Center at Woodbridge as it reaches its 20th anniversary on September 14, 2003.

The Senior Center was first built in 1983 by Prince William County and renovated in 2002 to provide 10,000 square feet of space for its many classes and services. Throughout its existence the center has provided a gathering place for seniors from the tri-jurisdictional area of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and the City of Manassas Park.

The center is operated by the Prince William Area Agency on Aging, a part of the Prince William County Government, and is one of the over 670 agencies in a national network of Area Agencies on Aging. The center provides many wonderful chances for seniors to connect with one another and their community,

and helps them continue to lead active and entertaining lives. One such program is the Bluebird Bus tours the center sponsors. These trips include both educational and recreational destinations such as Washington area museums, Niagara Falls, and surprise locations on their "mystery tours."

The center also provides local residents with opportunities to volunteer and brighten the day of a senior citizen through programs that include Meals on Wheels, which provides nutritious, hot meals to homebound seniors, and Friendly Visitors Volunteers who visit once a week with seniors that may otherwise be socially isolated. The Loan Closet and Support Services for seniors are two undertakings of the center which provide home care aids and match seniors and family members to the applicable resources available to them.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Prince William Senior Center at Woodbridge for being a comprehensive resource for the seniors and the community at large. The services provided to maintain the health and quality of life of seniors, the volunteer opportunities, and the educational and recreational programs sponsored by the center truly are an integral part of the life of the area's seniors. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this exceptional and notable institution.

SEPTEMBER SCHOOL OF THE
MONTH—NEW YORK'S 4TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I announce West Hempstead High School in the West Hempstead Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for September 2003.

The principal of West Hempstead High School is Catherine Kalina, Roseanne Scully is the Assistant Principal and the Superintendent of Schools is Carol Eisenberg. This is Catherine's first year as Principal and I am confident she is going to do a wonderful job for the students, faculty, and community. West Hempstead High School has over 900 students in grades 9–12.

I chose West Hempstead High School because of the importance they place, not just on the core curriculum, but on music and art as well. Under the guidance of Steven Siracusa and Gail Sachs-McCurdy, the school's music and art directors, respectively, West Hempstead High School has developed an extremely strong program in each area. To receive a diploma, students are required to earn one credit in music or art. Studies have shown students who participate in music and the arts are more creative, imaginative, and receive a more comprehensive education that will benefit them in their future endeavors.

West Hempstead High School offers a comprehensive music program including Music Theory, Band, Marching Band, Orchestra, Chorus and Jazz Band. The arts program offers an equally varied array of classes, ranging from creative crafts to advertising design to studio in cartooning.